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Message Text

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47
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 /082 W
---------- 053866
R 131405Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4923
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I I A L TEL AVIV 7229

E O 11652 : GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: COST OF ISRAELI FORTIFICIATION IN SINAI AND GOLAN

REF: USDAO 130812Z DEC 74 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL COMMENTS ON INCREASING PUBLIC ATTENTION BEING GIVEN IN ISRAEL TO FORTIFICATIONS BUILT BY IDF ALONG DISENGAGEMENT LINES ON BOTH SINAI AND GOLAN FRONTS. WORK ON THESE FORTIFICATIONS HAS BEEN UNDERWAY CONTINUOUSLY SINCE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. THEY CONSIST OF FIXED POSITIONS, ANTI-TANK DITCHES, EXTENSIVE MINE FIELDS, ETC. AND HAVE CLEARLY REQUIRED USE OF LARGE RESOURCES. FIGURES MOST RECENTLY REPORTED IN ISRAELI PRESS ARE: IL ONE BILLION FOR SINAI AND IL 200 MILLION FOR GOLAN (I.E. TOTAL OF DOLLARS 200 MILLION IN POST-DEVALUATION TERMS). SUCH SUMS WOULD REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY 8 PERCENT OF IDF CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.

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2. COMMENT: IF ISRAELIS HAVE IN FACT PUT AN INVESTMENT OF THIS

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SIZE INTO THEIR FORTIFICATIONS, IT SUGGESTS NOT ONLY THAT THEY ARE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN HAD BEEN PRESUMED, BUT ALSO THAT ISRAELIS WILL BE LOOKING FOR A VERY SUBSTANTIAL COUNTER-VALUE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT TERRORITORIAL WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHERN AREA.
DOZIER

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